

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

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FOR EUR/WE-RICHARD VINE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (PRONK, JAN)

SUBJECT: GON DEVELOPMENT AID MINISTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

1. DEVELOPMENT AID MINISTER JAN PRONK HAS CONFIRMED HIS INTEREST IN VISITING WASHINGTON OCTOBER 28-30 FOR IN DEPTH DISCUSSIONS WITH TOP US OFFICIALS IN THE DEVELOPMENT AID AND RELATED FIELDS. PRONK HAS BEEN IN WASHINGTON SEVERAL TIMES FOR MEETINGS OF THE WORLD BANK AND IMF BUT THIS WILL BE HIS FIRST BILATERAL VISIT. HE WAS NOMINATED BY THE EMBASSY FOR AN IVP GRANT IN 1972 BUT HAD TO CANCEL HIS PLANS TO VISIT THE US AT THAT TIME BECAUSE OF THE PROTRACTED PROCESS OF FORMING A NEW DUTCH GOVERNMENT, LEADING TO HIS APPOINTMENT TO ONE OF THE KEY MINISTRIES. HE IS A REAL POWER IN THE DUTCH LABOR PARTY AND HAS GREAT INFLUENCE AND PRESTIGE WITH THE YOUNGER MORE RADICAL ELEMENTS.

2. IN THE DEPARTMENT PRONK WOULD LIKE TO CALL ON THE SECRETARY, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, FOR A DISCUSSION OF THE POLITICAL AS WELL AS ECONOMIC FACTORS BEARING ON FOREIGN AID. ALTERNATIVELY, HE WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL OR UNDER SECRETARY

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SISCO. HE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SEE WINSTON LORD, PRE-

FERABLY OVER LUNCH. APPOINTMENTS ARE ALSO REQUESTED WITH WHITE HOUSE ECONOMIC ADVISER SEIDMAN, AID DIRECTOR DAN PARKER, TREASURY UNDER SECRETARY JACK BENNETT, AND ED MARTIN IN HIS CAPACITY AS US GOVERNMENT COORDINATOR FOR THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. HE HAS ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN ONE OR TWO OTHER CONTACTS WITH AUTHORITIES IN THE ENERGY AND COMMODITY FIELDS.

3. PRONK IS AGREEABLE TO CONTACTS WITH KEY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS CONCERNED WITH FOREIGN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. WE THINK SUCH CONTACTS COULD FORM A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF PRONK'S WASHINGTON VISIT IN VIEW OF HIS WELL-PUBLICIZED VIEWS THAT THE US AID EFFORT IS GROSSLY INADEQUATE AND THAT TOO MUCH OF THAT EFFORT IS MISDIRECTED TOWARD COUNTRIES WHOSE REGIMES PRONK CONSIDERS POLITICALLY UNPALATABLE, E.G., CHILE. PRONK NEEDS VERY MUCH TO BE EDUCATED TO THE REALITIES OF CURRENT CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES TOWARD FOREIGN AID. HE MAY NOT QUICKLY GET OVER HIS HANG-UPS ABOUT THE US AID PROGRAM BUT DIRECT CONTACT WITH SOME OF OUR CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS IN THIS FIELD WOULD HELP HIM TO UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS NOT QUITE SO EASY FOR THE US ADMINISTRATION TO GET AN AID BILL THROUGH CONGRESS AS IT IS FOR THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT THROUGH THEIR PARLIAMENT.

4. IN VIEW OF PRONK'S PROFESSED DOUBTS ABOUT VALUE OF ROLE PLAYED BY PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN LDCE, IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO BRING HIM TOGETHER WITH MARSHALL T. MAYS, PRESIDENT OF OPIC.

5. PRONK WOULD ALSO LIKE TO HAVE A FEW CONTACTS OUTSIDE OF GOVERNMENT CIRCLES, SPECIFICALLY WITH DAVID BELL, PRESIDENT OF THE FORD FOUNDATION, AND TOP OFFICIALS OF THE US BRANCH OF JUSTITIA ET PAX AND THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES.

6. PRONK IS SOMETHING OF A "WHIZ KID" IN DUTCH POLITICS, WITH IMPRESSIVE CREDENTIALS AS A TRAINED ECONOMIST. LIKE MOST DUTCHMEN, HE TAKES A PRAGMATIC APPROACH AS REGARDS HIS VISIT TO THE US; THIS MEANS THAT HE WILL BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN THE SUBSTANCE OF HIS CONTACTS, INCLUDING THE KNOWLEDGEABILITY AND AUTHORITATIVENESS OF THE CONTACTS WE ARRANGE, AND LESS CONCERNED WITH THEIR TITLES. HIS VISIT PROVIDES WASHINGTON WITH A PRIME OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME BETTER ACQUAINTED WITH AN INNOVATIVE FREQUENTLY CONTENTIOUS DUTCH OFFICIAL WHOSE IMPACT ON IMPORTANT US INTERESTS WILL LIKELY GROW IN THE COMING YEARS.

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